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THE
HOSPITAL
PUPIL'S GUIDE
Through London.

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THE
HOSPITAL
PUPIL'S GUIDE
Through London,

IN A SERIES OF
LETTERS;

FROM A
Pupil at St. Thomas's Hospital
TO HIS
FRIEND IN THE COUNTRY;

RECOMMENDING THE BEST MANNER OF A PUPILS EMPLOYING
HIS TIME, AND INTERSPERSED WITH AMUSING ANEC-
DOTES RELATIVE TO THE
HISTORY AND OECONOMY
OF
HOSPITAL's.



PRINTED by A. SEALE, FITZROY PLACE, NEW ROAD,
FITZROY SQUARE;
For WEST and HUGHES, Paternoster-Row; HUGHES, Wig-
more-Street; Cox, St. Thomas's Street, and CALLOW,
Crown Court.

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P R E F A C E.

THE following Letters were part of the correspondence of two young Gentlemen, Educated under the same roof: The writer of them is now in the Service of his Country abroad, his friend to whom they are written, alas! never reached the period when they might have been usefull to him. By his death they fell into the hands of a fond Sister, who is persuaded the publication of them may be usefull to some professional youths, who are sent to London without a friend or a guide; in this hope she trusts her Relation may yet be of some service to the Profession, for which his heart and talents were formed; a Profession where Nature and Art united to
Humanity

P R E F A C E

Humanity direct it's proceedings, and where without the aid of riches a well directed mind may do some *good* each day it passes.

The Editor humbly hopes that such errors as a youthfull pen in the frankness of friendship may have committed will be overlooked, and that the pride of a Sister in publishing the opinions of her lamented Brother will be pardoned by all who feel those tender sensations, which reconciles us to the external evils of life, by encreasing our domestic felicities.

MADAM,

MADAM,

No one can lament the loss of your excellent amiable Brother more than myself, during the six years we have lived together his conduct towards me and my interests has deserved all the encouragemets you are so good as to acknowledge, and I felt some pride in the prospect of giving to the world a Pupil, whose life would have been devoted to humanity.

My opinion respecting the letters you enclose for my perusal is, that the publication of them may be beneficial to many young Gentlemen who go to London to attend the Hospitals; but how far they may be profitable to you I am unable to judge. Some of the letters which speak freely of the characters of living individuals, it would be proper to suppress, and I recommend that no names should be printed in any of them,
least

LETTER

least the publication should in future prove prejudicial to the writer, in case he returns to England. In all other respects I recommend you to take the advice of your Uncle, who is so competent to judge, believing me to be

Madam

Your most obedient Servant

To Miss

J. C.

LETTER

LETTER I.

WHEN I wrote to you last I was in such a state of confusion from the novelty of the objects around me, that you must have thought me in a delirium; now I am a little more settled and composed I will give you an account of my proceedings, and from time to time, I will send you such information as I can collect, that you may profit next winter, by my preceeding you a year.

Alas! I was too late to become a Dresser as I intended; all the vacancies are filled and some Gentlemen are gone to enter as Dressers at St. Bartholemews, but I am told the situation of St. Thomas's, so far removed from the Play-houses and other diversions makes us of course less idle and more attentive to our studies, so I have entered as a yearly Pupil, the advantage of which I understand is, that if I can spend another winter in town, I am still at liberty to continue a visiter to the Prac-

tice and Operations of the Hospitals, whereas if I entered only for six Months, my attendance would expire at the end of that period.

The difference is only six Guineas, a very trifle for so great an advantage; this liberal accommodation I find was the proposal of the present Surgeons, who wishing to furnish the Public with young Men properly qualified from their School of Surgery, grant this encouragement that such as can afford the time and the money may have the opportunity of improvement.

To the Lectures I have become a perpetual Pupil the cheapest way of attending them for two years; but I cannot say much of the liberality of the Anatomical Teachers, since they have joined in a scheme to raise their Prices and perform their parts with the assistance of Journeymen.

I have taken a lodging in the same House with two of Mr.— Dressers who in consideration of my proposing to have Dressed if I could, have promised me every assistance and an introduction to the private Lectures which are occasionally given to them; this will be a particular advantage, for I find a Dresser so situated that he must be idle indeed, if he does not profit very much in his station.

He has the absolute execution of every thing but the great operations, the smaller and most frequent ones he is allowed to perform when he has been long enough in train to loose the trembling hand; in short before the end of his year he becomes as it were an Assistant Surgeon, for all the accidents are submitted to his care and judgment; he takes up the vessels after Operations, puts on the bandages, and acts a foremost character in the presence of numerous Spectators, by which he must acquire confidence and courage. When his first year is expired he is still the right hand of his Teacher, upon him reposes the care of all dangerous cases 'till he has instructed the successors to go alone, as they term it, and in consideration of his services his attendance is usually permitted as long as convenient to himself.

The only persons more privileged than Dressers are the Apprentices, who in general are such fine Gentlemen, they do not chuse to dirt their fingers, or skreen their Pantaloons with a stuff apron; for the fashion of education now I hear is to receive all Instructions at the ear; we keep Professors to read for us and tell us what we should believe: It is a *Bore* to study, and if we can but manage the trick of passing at the Hall, we obtain a licence to cut, hack and slay, any, or all of his Majesty's Subjects.

By the bye Henry we have rather the advantage in serving our time with a Master who thought it his duty to teach us the manual, for by a comparison of what I can do, I find few of the Dressers will be as forward in some months, if you was to see how awkward they are at bandages, the Tourniquet, and all the finger work we have been practised in, you would think yourself a tolerable clever fellow; so get forward my Lad, and please the old Boy and perhaps he may spare you next Summer to join me in London, where you and I will live happily together again in the sincere friendship which has already united us. Make my kind respects to Mr.—— and his good Lady, and believe me

Dear HENRY, &c.

L E T T E R II.

YOU are so anxious to know what I do every hour, that to satisfy your enquiries I must begin with the day, before I am out of my Slippers. Well then, as soon as I am out of bed and almost before I am awake, I go to the Midwifry Lecture; next I break my fast and put on my Boots, then to a Lecture on Chymistry or Physic, which lasts 'till eleven, at this hour the business of the Hospital commences and I go round with the Dressers, and assist them in holding the Fractures, applying some bandages, and when any one of them is absent I take his box and attend his Patients.

But I have now learned the regular system of the Surgeons attendance: at Guys the Surgeons come by Eleven o'Clock not to interfere with those of St. Thomas's who attend at Twelve Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, one of the Sugeons at each House see their Patients and
make

make out their weekly return, dismissing such as are cured.

Wednesday is the day of admitting Patients into Guys, and Thursday into St. Thomas's, this makes an appearance of great confusion, but is done with much method and order. I shall have occasion to speak more of this another time, for after the admission is over a private Lecture is often given, which is explanatory of the duties of the Charity.

Friday is usually the day when Operations are performed, and when the newly admitted Patients are examined and treated by the Dresser who is to have the care of them. This is a usefull lesson, for it teaches him to specify what the Disease is, and to exercise his judgment in prescribing for it. The next day the Sugeons and Physicians go round together, in order to consult on such cases as require their joint aid, and to correct or approve the directions which the Dresser has given the preceeding day. Sunday is a day of rest when such patients only as require particular attention are waited on. I take the opportunity of this day to view London and its Environs; and as we read so much of the Bible at home, I now turn over a few pages of Stow's Survey of London, and set down what I mean to view on the following Sunday. One of the first Parish Churches in London is
opposite

opposite the Hospital, it is built like a Cathedral in the form of the Cross, and has three Ayles, and a large Chancell behind them; and contains many curious old Monuments, and one of the Knights Templars.

But to return to the order of the day; about one o'Clock the business of the Hospital is finished, and soon after the Anatomical Lectures begins, this lasts 'till three, when our labours cease and our appetites begin to crave for dinner, after which some little respite from business is proper, and pleasant conversation lulls the time 'till evening, when I look over some books, write down cases and observations, or employ myself agreeably, as I am now doing in corresponding with a friend.

I forgot to mention that on a Saturday Eve there is an Assembly in the Theatre at Guys, to read and debate a Medical paper, this is a very agreeable amusement and gives an opportunity for those who have confidence enough to display their abilities; I am only one of the Auditors, you Henry shall be a Spouter, for as you assumed the Buskin with so much applause at our Fair, you will not want for assurance to enter the lists in opposition to the celebrated Doctor Hawes. There is a Library attached to this Society which I find extremely usefull, 'tho it is necessary to purchase a certain number of books, because we must have daily reference to them.

To-morrow

To-morrow there is an operation for the Stone: I long to see this Chef d'ovre of Surgery, what a good thought it was to turn a Man into a Woman and take out the Stone, as you would extract a dead Factus. We have been practising the ligatures on each other, that the Dressers may be expert when they are in the Theatre, the material point is to tie the Wrist and the Ankle tight, and then bind down the Fingers to the Feet. Ask Mr.— to shew you this Bandage, I am sure he is still expert at it.

They tell me the Sister of the Stone Ward is a remarkable cleaver woman, that by her great care, she scarce ever looses a Patient after the operation, but few they say of the young Men know any thing of her method of treatment, and fewer of them ever enquire after the event of an Operation, or even stay in the Theatre to see the first dressing put on.

Herein lies a great difference between a Dresser and Pupil, the former must necessarily see and even do the practical part; the latter may see it if he will attend; adieu my good Friend, I will write again soon.

Yours, &c. &c.

LETTER

 L E T T E R III.

I SPENT last Sunday most agreeably, for my Companions being asked to bring me to Dine with one of the Surgeons, amused the forenoon with shewing me several of the Churches in the City. The number of beautifull Spires which adorn London is very striking, and the variety of Architecture in their construction is pleasing, and will be particularly so to you, who draw and design so well. We walked in the Park, attended the evening service at Westminster Abbey, which is a noble Gothic Building, and where the departure of the day-light and the faint glimmer of the Candles makes a charming contrast in the arches of the Choir, while the Organ salutes us with an Anthem.

A good dinner was not the worst part of our day's amusement, and the discourse afterwards gave me much usefull knowledge about the Hospital. I learned that it was originally an ap-

C

pendage

pendage to the Abbotsy of Bermondsay, where the Monks who were the Physicians of those days, administered to the poor who wers sick, and where the Nuns took the charge of nursing them; which is the reason why the principal Nurse of every Ward to this day is called a *Sister*.

Thomas a Becker whose murder made so much noise was a liberal Benefactor, and it derived its name from him; Pilgrims going to his Tomb, were allowed food and lodging as they passed for a night, and were taken care of, if sick.

When Henry VIII. seized the Church lands, he gave back the Estates of this House, and his Son Edward the VIth. of whom there is a fine bronge Statute in the Square, endowed it largely; many Citizens of London, have given liberal donations to it, but it cut no great figure 'till after Cromwells Usurpation, when the Kingdom was divided by the Wig and Tory factions.

It seems as if in Peace time, those parties vived with each other who could do most good or govern a Charity the best, for the Tories all united to support St. Bartholemew, and the Whigs assembled at St. Thomas's. Portraits of the principal Benefactors hang up in the great Hall, and inscriptions of their donations adorn the

the Squares: the Architecture is after the manner of ancient Palaces, agreeable to the rules of Lord Bacon, and the Lock for the cure of Venerereal Patients is admirably placed in a remote corner separte from the rest of the Hospital. The names of the Wards correspond with the politics of the party, some of the Priesthood as Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Luke, Lydic and Dorcus, but the Whigs called their additions King, William George, Henry, and Queen, Elizabeth, Ann and Mary.

The Goverment of this Charity is provided by Charter; a President is always chosen out of the Court of Aldermen, a Committee is nominated to manage the affairs, and to report them to the general Courts twice at least in the year. The Officers of the House are under the direction of a superior called the Treasurer, who is usually a person of independant Fortune, because he serves without a salary. He has an opportunity however of providing for many dependants, and of doing a great deal of good, as well as the credit and the pleasure of seeing a large Income expended with œconemy in the best of Charities; so that this Office to a benevolent heart is a source of gratefull pleasing amusement.

If any irregularities arise within the Hospital he is the Arbiter of them, and formerly there were Stocks and a Whipping post, to which he could condemn them, for he ought to be in the commission of the Peace properly.

We Pupils are not beyond his power, he has a right of expulsion, and in such case the Surgeons return the Fee to the poors Box, for the Surgeons are regulated by orders from the Committee, being only considered as officers of the House, and receiving a Salary of Forty pounds Annually for their service; hardly enough to find their Instruments and requisites.

After receiving many usefull hints how to employ my time to the best advantage, we concluded the Evening curiously, with a sight which few people in London ever saw: We went to Smithfield to observe the Cattle at nigh enter that Market; the noise, the bustle, the sagacity of the Dogs, the arrangement, the links and the Drovers form a curious spectacle.

You find Henry I omit no opportunity of requiring knowledge. I mean at a proper season to visit the Courts of Law and Justice, and not to leave London, which it may never be my lot to see again without knowing all about it.

It

It is here we must learn Men and Manners, to fit us for the bustle of life.

I do not expect you to write often, because I have more subjects for my pen, but let me sometimes know you are in health and assure yourself that

I am &c. &c.

L E T T E R IV.

HOW difficult it is my dear Henry to use authority with discretion, has been lately evinced by a dispute between the Dressers and the Pupils. One of the former who had paid his money for the liberty of being idle, had his absence supplied by the assiduity of one of the Pupils, who like myself was indulged with his Box, but this has given such umbrage to some of the Dressers that a remonstrance has been presented to the Surgeons; this has produced an explanation, by which we are given to understand, that the Surgeons being answerable for the cure of the Patients, have alone the right of appointing whom they chuse to officiate; that if a Dresser neglects his daily duty, humanity dictates that the Patient should not suffer, to prevent which in case of absence, illness, or idleness, the Surgeon alone has the right to nominate his assistant: faith! if they had not some little steadiness, all here would be
confusion

confusion, for two or three idle ones would spoil the whole Class. Lecture is frequently interrupted by their pelting each other, and such like indecorums, and I am told at one time they entered into a resolution not to dress their Patients unless certain demands they made were allowed, upon which the Surgeons very spiritedly put on their aprons and dressed the house themselves, which ended the Rebellion.

Hogarth's prints of the diligent and the idle Apprentice, would be very proper furniture for one of the Apartments, for there is a great deal too much gameing going forwards. Billiards and Cards consume most of the time of certain Gentlemen, and by a want of principal which is evident in the conduct of some, we may trace those seeds of Empiricism and Ignorance which sometimes burst forth to the destrucion of Makind.

I do not propose to begin Dissecting 'till the days lengthen, for the rooms are crouded and very filthy: this branch of Surgery is best taught by private lessons, and one of the Surgeons of Guys takes vast pains with his Pupils; it is an art readily obtained I conclude, because the Servant who cleans the rooms out, is a very good Dissector, makes and sells many preperations which the Pupils carry into the country, as their own handy

handy works, and he injects all the blood-vessel subjects for them; so that all the dexterity of hand, which should be acquired by diligent dissection, is unattained, and this part of the art is as superficially learned as the rest.

The avidity to purchase tolerable neat preparations is such while the money lasts, that you and I Henry could almost pay our expences by our diligence in making them;

I intend to try at some and to learn the art of Injecting, for I see no reason why I should pay my money and not be taught; half the business of Surgery appears to me merely Mechanical, and they say the late Mr. Hunter was the better Surgeon for having been bred a Joiner. to be sure the Instruments are very like the Carpenters tools.

It is rumored the Governors are to take a view of the Hospital next week, this is a ceremony which should take place three times a year, in order to see that no patient is retained longer than proper, without good reason least the Charity should be made a Workhouse in lieu of an Hospital; but this ceremony has been sadly neglected for two or three years, of which some persons complain? but for my part I believe they
are

are afraid of tumbling through the floors, for there is a prodigious deal of repair wanted to the old Building.

If there is any interval between the Classes I shall hope to pay you a Christmas visit, in the mean time I am as ever,

Yours &c .&c.

LETTER V.

AS I am inquisitive without being impertinent I obtain a great deal of information. From one of the Apothecaries Pupils, I learn that if a Man was to confine himself to Pharmacy he might have much advantage by being situated as he is; for he certainly has an opportunity not only of seeing all the preparations of the Medicines but the arrangement of serving them out, the practice of the Physicians, and the daily operations of their remedies, every morning he visits the Wards in company with the Apothecary to enquire if *the remedies have done any mischief*.

The Physicians Pupils are only such Gentlemen as come from some of the Universities intending to graduate as Doctors: they pay only Twenty Guineas and become perpetual Pupils, which would be a cheap way of walking the Hospitals, if this was not strictly attended to.

Not

Not long ago, some dispute about this matter arose between the Physicians and the Surgeons, when it was explained that the latter were Masters of their Theatre, and would admit none without their Ticket, except by courtesy which they were always ready to extend to Gentlemen of the Universities.

During this dispute a pupil from Dublin took advantage of it and said he was ready to enter with the Doctors, as soon as he knew his privileges, but upon being told he would have no right to attend the Surgeons practice and operations, Paddy walked off, and soon after applied to be admitted *Surgeons Mate to a Man of War*.

The Elaboratory has lately been repaired and is indeed a very compleat work; there is a Mill in it of cast Iron, which grinds and sifts at the same time. By this Mill they have discovered that when they used to send their Peruvian Bark to be ground, the Miller robbed them and added some adulteration to the mass, just as they serve the Flour in the Country; and indeed the Medicines are all so genuine that it has been found to be worth while for people to make themselves out-door patients, to procure Medicines and sell them.

The article of Spirits of Wine used to be very expensive, for the Nurses and Patients would warm it up with spices and sugar by way of a Dram, but some Tartar Emetic is now put into the Cask, and has effectually stopped that practice, tho not before a general scour was produced among several of them which had a very good effect in *terrorem*.

The Surgeons have an ingenious mode of getting improvements in their department without interfering with the Income of the Hospital; for when they want an hundred Pounds to alter a Theatre, or build a Room they propose a new Governor, whose present is equivalent to the purport they want, and by this means the majority of new Governors of late have been procured, for the Committee are not attentive to this matter they say, and many of the Heirs of such Families whose Pictures and Statues adorn the Hospital, are left ignorant that such a Charity as St. Thomas is in existance.

In the Rebellion of 1745, this Hospital was of much service to Government by receiving wounded Soldiers, and some new Wards in the roof of the House were fitted up on the occasion, but in this extravagant Age it is no longer wanted;
for

for in compliment to our Commander in Chief, a new Military Hospital is built at Chelsea for that purpose called York Hospital, where I had an opportunity of paying a visit yesterday. If all the Military Hospitals are supplied in the same stile as this, the money wasted upon them must be enormous, for extravagance is the order of the day. At St. Thomas's we are taught frugality, œconomy, and how to shift in cases of necessity, for an occasional splint we are told to stuff an old Stocking with straw, and to take for our motto *Waste not and Want not*, but at York Hospital Lint is used like Tow, and every thing is supplied in such abundance that it is shameful to see the abuse and profusion. It must be rare profit to the Purveyors unless their office fees are enormous, which I always suspect when I see such abundance. Some of the Mates laughed heartily at our remarks, and told us they did not live upon charity at Chelsea.

In my next I will give you some account of Guys Hospital, the particulars of which I am furnished with by a Taylor in the parish who is an intelligent, chatting Fellow, but who seems not to want information.

I am Dear Henry &c. &c.

LETTER

LETTER VI.

I AM now to acquaint you with as much of the history of Mr. Guy and his Hospital, as I have collected from my friend the Taylor. Guy was a Citizen who by spending little and knowing the value of money amassed a vast fortune, and instead of leaving it to a profligate heir to loose at the gaming table, built a spacious Hospital, for which he deserves to be Sainted more than half the Saints, in the Catholic Calendar.

The original intention of the Founder was most beneficent, for observing at St. Thomas's the many maladies with which human nature is inflicted, that admit of no cure from Medicine or Surgery, as Cancers, Scrofula, Palsies and others, he founded his Hospital to receive and maintain incurable Disorders, annexing it to St. Thomas's by the kindest ties. The ground on
which

which it stands belongs to St. Thomas's and was leased to him for one Thousand Years at the small Rent of 100 pounds Annum, to the great detriment of the Parish as time has proved.

He directed that his Governors should be elected out of the Governors of St. Thomas's to preserve this union, and that if his estates should prove more valuable than sufficient to maintain his Charity, the surplus should be given to some other Charity. The first Surgeons were the Apprentices from St. Thomas's and so celebrated in the annals of Surgery that the list of Incurables gradually diminished. The celebrated Sharp, Warner, and Belchier were of the number.

Some disputes which arose between the Medical Gentlemen gave the Governors an opportunity of interfering and by degrees of subverting the original intention of Mr. Guy, by making it a rival Hospital; Instead of making the hour of admission follow that of St. Thomas's, they changed the day and took in Patients on the Wednesday, in order to have the preference of their Mother Charity, but this in the public eye availed nothing, the predilection of the Poor was in favor of their old Saint. Religion actually seems
to

to guide them and they have no faith out of the established Church.

Insanity is certainly one of the incurable maladies; a miserable Shed was fitted up for the reception of a small number, and in course of time a small Hospital at the back of the original one has been built for the reception of twenty Females, and thus endeth the Incurable list. This Building however is executed in so masterly a manner, that it stands unrivalled. The Matrons apartment is so contrived that at one view she sees the whole Building, and can instantly direct her attention to any part, where she is wanted. But of this Building and this much to be admired part of this charity very few Pupils ever hear one syllable.

The views and entrances of the Hospital being thus perverted, my friend the Taylor observes that the aim at independance goes on. It is no longer thought necessary to chuse Governors from those of St. Thomas, an independent free choice is set up, and after their Election, they are told it is customary to give Fifty Pounds to St. Thomas's to be named a Governor, which in due time is to proceed till a cabal of fifty men rule both Houses.

But

But it appears that instead of a rivalry the wisdom would be to confirm the Union. The Surgical interest is united, and much to every ones advantage.—The Physicians are yet at variance, and the Governors have found cause to widen the breach ; where the policy of this can be I do not conceive.

My informer further observes that to rectify the original bad construction of the Wards, prodigious sums of money were expended by the late Treasurer to little effect. Some say it was to prevent St. Thomas's from claiming a surplus to repair its worn out walls, but certainly the expence seems injudiciously managed, for there are so many cuts and holes within and without, that it has been compared to an incurable fistula, where the disease has made a cullendar of the external parts, and they say *cool air* is so freely admitted, that patients come in with sore legs, and go out with the Rheumatism.

But I must finish this subject next time, my paper is full, and the Lecture is ready,

Adieu &c. &c.

E

LETTER

L E T T E R VII.

THE entrance to Mr. Guys Hospital is certainly very grand; it is a square paved court with handsome Buildings on each side. The Hall, the Treasurer's and the Stewards Houses form one side. The Apothecary, the Chapel and the Clergyman, occupy the other; but it is worth notice that the Treasurers House is *vis a vis* to the foul Wards of St. Thomas's.

The magnificent entrance should bespeak something superb for the Body of the Building, but here is a great defect, the Hospital consists of two small Quadrangles, joined by a cross Building supported on Arches, instead of Columns; this little has been made less by enclosing the Arches to gain space within, so that the lower Apartments look like Stables, and the number of holes and wire sieves to admit air, spoil the effect of the Architecture.

It

It is wonderful with such a model as St. Thomas's before them, that they should have committed so many blots, the stairs are all an inch too deep, so that an active pair of legs tires in ascending them, a lame pair must be wearied. The Wards also are very faulty, they are wider than St. Thomas's but not higher, so that the eye marks their disproportion; besides each ward has an elbow, so that the Nurse cannot view her patients commodiously.

They have lately endeavoured to cover these blots by furnishing them with smart linen, this has a neat appearance at first, and was contrived to strike the Governors at their annual view, that they might pass by the great expenditure, but a few washings destroy all this effect, and a few weeks make it sadly filthy. Stuff furniture seems best adopted for Hospital use. Guys however would be considered as a pretty hospital, if the old shop was not so near it; the union is very beneficial to both, for the accidents are so few at Guys, owing to its standing in the back ground that this grand part of Surgery would be very deficiently studied, if the Pupils were not called to the cases in both houses. Many pleasant jokes are passed on this subject, they tell that a Man is deputed to stand on London Bridge and pay a premium to the coachmen if he brings the patients to St. Guy's; the Governors are told that

any accident sent to Guys shall have the carriage paid from the County and a shilling to the Driver, and in the famous Monument erected to the Founder in the Chapel, the Artist has sculptured an accident on a Chairman's Horse carrying into the Hospital gate.

The famous orator Thelwall made his first appearance at the Theatre of Guys Hospital; he was a principal disputant for two winters, and when he was called upon to write a paper, he produced one on Materialism. this almost turned the young Mens heads, the subject was adjourned from one meeting to the other, Politics and Atheism became the general subject of conversation, Physic and Surgery were laid aside; the Treasurer at length being apprised of the matter, gave directions that the Orator should be dismissed or the Society put an end to; the Orator was accordingly warned off, and from that moment became a public Spouter, 'till his Trial at the Old Bailey shut his lips.

The Faculty have not been overlooked in the expenditure of Guy's money, every accomodation has been offered them with a degree of elegance. The Elaboratory is a compleat Building, the Arches are elegant, and one of the Surgeons has a private Dissecting room, which is
his

his hobby horse, and where Anatomy is privately taught to the deserving few; I am anxious to be of that number, and from the liberality of that Gentleman I hope in time to be worthy his notice. A few years since an apparatus for Lectures on natural Philosophy was purchased by the Governors, they say at the expence of £500. and the Chaplain reads the Lecture annexed to the Chymical course, so that between both Hospitals we have a complete class for study, and may be properly called a College of Medicine. Edinburgh is not a little jealous of it, and indeed uniting the practice of a thousand patients to the facility of procuring subjects for dissection, the Borough has many advantages, and as for a Degree in Physic the Mail Coach will fetch M. D. from Aberdeen for Fourteen Pounds whenever it is thought necessary.

Adieu, &c. &c.

LETTER

L E T T E R VIII.

I RECEIVED the Hare in very good order and shewed my science in cookery at the dressing of it; I assure you I gave a gay supper, and instead of cards, we passed our time in trying who was the most dexterous at applying bandages. One of the party shewed me the manner in which he takes his notes of Cases, and I shall adopt it, for if a man takes the Cases with remarks which occur only in one twelvemonth, he will possess a good volume of practice.

This Gentleman, before an operation is performed examines the Patient, and marks on the opposite leaf in his book, the manner he would propose to perform it, afterwards he notes down the mode in which it was done, and sometimes enquires of the Surgeon his reasons for any thing particular which occurred in the operations. He does not then forget to note the consequences, to
attend

attend to the symptomatic fever, and to the dressings for many days ; a circumstance which I find very few of the Pupils ever mind. Herein is the great advantage of being a Dresser ; he must necessarily watch the event, and he finds that the cure very much depends on his management. One of the Surgeons is devilish particular about this and if his dresser is not dexterous, he takes the Instruments and dresses the wound himself.

After the death of Mr. Pott, the new doctrines of John Hunter, displaced they say the good old successfull practice of the Hospitals, and introduced a number of whimsies, which have succeeded so ill, that the old methods have been restored. Healing by first intention in compound fractures seldom succeeds in the Hospital ; the better practice seems to be that of dilating the wound, not sawing off the bone, but removing loose splinters and dressing to the bottom, with the limb placed in the old fracture box ; dried sponge is a dressing used by some to absorb the Pus, and it seems eminently serviceable : there is a great improvement in the original fracture box, tho' Fricke must be allowed the merit of inventing it. They have a very cleaver Bedstead in the Hospital, which by means of a Rack places the Patient at any elevation you like, this is a vast comfort, when he is likely to have a long confinement.

confinement. Yet when a broken limb is steadily fixed in the fracture box, you may with facility move the patient into a fresh bed; this is the practice of one of the Surgeons, who refreshes his patient once a week, thereby teaching his Dressers how to handle a man as well as a limb with dexterity.

I met Jack Harrison the other day, who is come to London to be tutored practically by a Butcher in the killing and handling fat Cattle. I find this is a custom lately adopted by some wealthy Farmers and Graziers in Kent and Suffex; they send their Sons to London to study market Cattle, for as every County sends it's Beasts to Market, they become thus knowing in the various species of Cattle and of feeding, and they learn when cut up, where the meat, and where the fat lies. There is a great deal of art in cutting up beasts for the market, insomuch that in Pork there is a new Trade, the Pork Cutter, and every great market has some different mode of cutting up it's meat.

There is a Tea Garden at Rotherhithe, the Master of which has made himself celebrated by a Picture of Butchers Shambles which he has painted. He went to Market bought a Joint, and while it hung up to tender, he painted it's picture, *luxurious rogue*; he was a good market-man:

man and did not fix his choice to Leaden-hall or St. James's but ransacked all about for the best.

When he had finished his Picture, by a hand bill, he invited all the Butchers to view it, who not only were pleased with the picture, but gave it a finishing criticism by pointing out a circumstance the Artist was not aware of, for the Butchers named the Markets from which he had purchased each joint? *This Beef is from Leaden-hall, the Veal from Newgate; I will swear to St. James's Lamb, and the Mutton was killed in the Borough.*

The success of his piece encouraged the Artist to paint on; he has dawbed his Gardens over with all sorts of sign posts, but his Shambles remain unrivalled. He puts me in mind of some country practitioners, who if they would stick to their self taught Midwifry might shine above any of the old Women around them, but when they attempt Physic and Surgery, do but disgrace an art which requires Skill and Education to comprehend.

Next Sunday I am to go to the Veterinary College; I will send you an account of it.

Adieu, &c. &c.

F

LETTER

LETTER IX.

WE had a pleasant walk last Sunday, and as we passed the New River Head at Islington, and saw the Pipes ramifying from it, one of our companions took occasion to observe that all the works of art seemed to have a close Analogy with the human system. This Reservoir he compared to the Heart distributing it's Fluid to various parts, passing through many glands for various purposes, and it's focal parts being afterwards expelled through an excretory pipe into a common sewer.

This river it seems is brought to Islington and conveyed from thence by pipes into the Cisterns of the houses in London, from whence after serving culinary and other purposes it is carried by waste pipes into a common Sewer, which passes
under

under the pavement of every freet, and empties itself into the Thames; and thus far his comparison holds pretty close.

Indulging his fancy as we proceeded in our walk, he observed that the Gardner and the Surgeon were nearly approximated, they both studied nature and worked upon the same plan.

When ground was to be made fit for a Garden, he first employed Fire and Sword, he burned the weeds and plowed up the roots, then manured it, then drained it, planted it, or rolled it. The Gardner he says takes off excrescencies, Inoculates, transplants, amputates and acts the Surgeon every day. He even trains his Trees anatomically, and to preserve the life and health of his Timber Trees, he follows our practice in diseases of the bone, waits for exfoliation, or amputates to preserve the body.

He promises to carry us to Kensington Gardens and shew us some curious specimens of Mr. Forsyth's plan to illustrate his observation, and engages us for a Summer Sunday at Greenwich Park, where he will shew us some instances of the anastomosing branches in the Hawthorn, and by a favour of a relation who is an Officer at the Hospital, he will exhibit to us the plan and the

beauties of that noble pile of Building, which may truly be called the glory and pride of Great Britain.

This pleasant companion beguiled our way, with his wit and his fancy, but fancy gets the better of Science in the present Age, which is the reason why we are so over-run with bad systems.

Physiology gets the better of Practice, and what has been proved to be good and right by the success of years, is found to be wrong and injudicious in five minutes harrangue. This is an 'age of Revolution, and the new light is to shine upon us. But I have got to the end of my paper before I arrive at the Farrier's forge, I must therefore make the Veterinary College the subject of my next, having room only to subscribe myself

Your Affectionate Friend, &c. &c.

LETTER

L E T T E R X.

THE Military Barracks in your town are better worth seeing than this same School for Farriers, for how they came to assume the name of College I know not? Here are lofty Stables full of filthy Cart Horses, with ulcerated heels scenting all the place; diseases which should be at grass confined together in a most offensive manner; the Grooms are of the lowest order, for a nice one would soon be sick of his office.

The Dissection is somewhat sweeter than at the Hospital, because the subjects are not so putrid, and the Apothecary's Shop is the best part. There are many Pupils, for the Professor examines and gives them his Diploma for the Army, where they are as well paid as the
Surgeon

Surgeon of a Regiment, so that altogether he makes *a good thing of it*. It is said that his different appointments amount to (between three and four Thousand Pounds a year.

He was a Pupil at the Hospital, when the Veterinary Professor as they called him died; and at that time the College was much in debt to some Gentlemen, who had advanced money; but a scheme was proposed to support the College and repay them at once. A person was hired to write a pamphlet to prove that a Horse was of more use, than a Man in a Regiment, because it cost more money at first, this pamphlet was printed on convenient soft paper and sent to every Member of Parliament: The subject matter came home to every one who delighted in a Stable, which may fairly be counted a majority of the House; and the succeeding step was a modest proposal, for a gift of £3000, and an Annuity of £1500. a year to carry on the National advantage of a School for Farriers; the gift repaid the loan and the pension finished the jobb.

This same Parliament the next year refused the decent petition of the Surgeons Company, and the chief opposers to it were the Prince of Farriers and his Associates.

When

When I came to enquire, what advantage had resulted from such an expence, I found they shod in a better manner, but this manner was published in France, and partly practised at Newmarket many years before, but it does not answer on hard roads, the Blindness, of Horses, and the other diseases which torment this usefull Animal, are left after many experiments just where they found them. They give them better Physic and less of it, but the proper Physic and the usefull remedies have been well known in Racing Stables a long time, the secret is let out, and like other medical secrets, proves that Farriers are no conjurers. To shoe their Horses thy sling them, which is safe and cleaver; but I understand that none of the considerable Jobb Men, or great Horse Dealers have any opinion of their practice. They sometimes consult the Professor, but it is as we consult a Doctor in the Country, only in desperate cases, where nothing is left for him to do but just to sign the death warrant and give the Undertaker his hint.

I cannot say this College of which we hear'd so much in the Country, answered my expectations. It is a degredation of Surgery and in another war, we shall have the Army and Navy supplied by Farriers instead of Surgeons, and if
it

it is not the fashion to study a little more than the generality of Pupils do at present, the Horse Doctors will most probably jockey the Profession.

Adieu my good friend, &c. a merry Christmas to you.

LETTER

LETTER XI,

I AM unhappy my good Sir to learn the dangerous tendency of my Friends fever from your pen. I am well convinced the distress his illness must occasion you, and tho' it were ever so inconvenient to me, I would gladly set aside my own advantages to shew the respect and regard I entertain for your kind and friendly treatment of me during my Apprentiship. Be assured that I will set out to-morrow by Coach to take his place and be of every service I can to you.

As I have entered for a year, I understand that I may pursue my studies and hospital attendance a second Winter if convenient; had I been only a Six Months Pupil, the absence might have been prejudicial to my future views, but I am young enough to dedicate sufficient time to the completion of my studies, and agreeable to your
G remark

remark I am persuaded, the best money I shall ever afford, is that which I lay out in education.

My kindest love to Henry; I will nurse him by night and attend to your business by day, to evince the friendship I have for him, and the delight I have in proving myself.

Dear Sir,

Your obliged

and Gratefull Humble Servant,

LETTER

L E T T E R XII.

ONCE again my dear Henry I am returned to this seat of Science and pleasure, experiencing the greatest of delight in having been in any way conducive to your health, and to our Masters repose; but of all the Lectures I shall hear on fever, or all the books I may read, nothing will be of so much service to me, as my attention to yours. I am convinced that the Nurse has a greater charge than the Doctor, and if she does not do her duty by night, all he does in the day is in vain; the access of fevers you feel by experience generally approaches with the setting of the sun; that is the period to watch a change, and one faithfull friend taking the direction and the care of the night is of the utmost consequence.

We have in every Ward a night Nurse appointed for that charge, and if she does her du-

ty the Doctor saves his patient, if she snores and neglects it, good night to the Sick Man. By the character of the Sister and Nurses you may foretell the event of a case.

The body politic and the body natural, as the great Mr. Burke observed are very similar, our Ministers appoint a grand guard to watch us every night, and curious it is to remark that the majority of the guard who take care of us while we are asleep, are Irishmen whom we would not trust in the day.

I am just come back to observe the regret of the half yearly Pupils, and to feel the advantage of my situation; the letters have just been issued to those whose Six-Months are expired, to acquaint them that their Certificates are ready to be made out, and that their attendance on the Practice and the Operations are no longer allowed, this is a necessary step, for without it, they would sneak another three Months and those who pay the premium would have little advantage. I can see the chagrin it occasions and the wish that the Six Guineas had been properly applied at first, instead of secreted for Cards and Billiards, since in truth most of them are furnished at their first coming to town with money to enter for the year, but are persuaded by those who have designs upon

upon them to save the additional Six Guineas, to loose in gambling, or spend in getting a Gonorrhea which confines and invalides them for two or three months by their sad mismanagement of it.

I am returned soon enough to hear the Lectures on Surgery and the diseases of the Bones, which I understand are a prime part of the Class, and as the days grow longer, and buildings begin to be erected, the number of material accidents seem to encrease, indeed they say that the Surgery of the Summer furnishes more instructive Cases than at any other period; and as our society lessens and gathers more into a circle, we have many opportunities of improving each other: they promise me a pleasant Summer, and have several plans not unconnected with business, of which I shall give you information as they occur, now dear Henry, present me to our good Master, and believe me

Ever and Affectionately

Yours &c.

LETTER

L E T T E R XIII.

OUR Anatomical Courses are now finished when our number of Pupils lessens daily, and it should seem as if the practice of the hospitals was a matter not worthy attention. I will venture to say that if the Gentlemen who have passed the winter here were examined as to what they have learned *to do*, very many of them would be found sadly deficient, yet has their verbal instruction been such, that they will readily account for every thing which occurs.

The Lectures on the Diseases of the Bones are admirable ; I am happy I returned soon enough to hear them, and those on the *gravid Uterus* seem to include the marrow of Midwifery. I shall now begin my dissections, because the room will be sweet, the days long, and the subjects plenty. I shall not as is usual in winter employ a journeyman to inject for me, but I shall labour at it myself

myself, and first I shall begin with Animals and Fishes, and use cheap injections, as Tallow, Size, and Wax, 'till I become expert; then I shall indulge in elegant materials, and make valuable preparations which will amply repay my time and expences.

Last Thursday I attended Dr. Fordyce and his Pupils, to view Dr. William Hunters Museum, the preparations are fine and numerous, but not better than those at St. Thomas's; there is a collection of Medals, which is reckoned highly valuable, and is said to have cost £10,000.

From thence we went to view the curious Museum of the late Mr. John Hunter, which is indeed a superb collection, and arranged in the highest order for the study of comparative Anatomy. It is said that Parliament are to purchase this of his Executors and to present it to the Surgeons, which will make them a most respectable body of usefull Members in Society. Since by possessing such a collection they may institute Lectures, connecting the London Schools with our two Universities, and rivalling all the world for the study of Natural History and Medicine.

I send

I send herewith as I promised, Walker's Memoirs of Medicine; Howard on the Lues Venerea and Chevelliers account of English Surgery. I have read them all with much satisfaction, and they have saved me voluminous research, for they are *multum in parvo*. The Medical Jurisprudence you shall have when I have finished it, it is an excellent little work.

The Jurisprudence awakened my curiosity and led me to the Old Bailey to hear the Trials, when I observed how necessary it was that Surgeons should be acquainted with the matter laid down in this little book; for in a trial for a rape, I could discover the Council had perused it. Here I was induced to wait upon the finish of the Law, for I heard a Man tried and condemned for Murder, and shall I confess to you that I was induced to see him executed last Monday. I wished to have got the body for dissection, but as it was to be exposed to the public, I thought it might be too putred before it was delivered over to me.

Do not suspect that I have less sensibility by indulging my curiosity thus far; I think it right to see every thing which occurs, and to reflect seriously. I feel as a Man should feel, knowing
where

where to pity and where to condemn; the old copies of our School often present themselves and shew the impression they are meant to make on youth; *Honesty is the best policy*, I find through life; but I am beginning to preach, tho' I assure you Henry I am not turning Methodist but am as usual

Your Affectionate Friend, &c. &c.

L E T T E R XIV.

OUR Summer Society becomes every day more agreeable, for the duties of the hospital are readily finished by Noon, and we occasionally relieve each other, when we wish to be absent. I am now acting as a Dresser which I have engaged to do for three Months, while one of Mr. — Gentlemen absents himself.

Last Sunday we spent the evening most pleasantly, we took our seats in the long Coach to Greenwich and attended the service in the beautiful Chapel of the Hospital, after which we contemplated that superb mass of Building, esteemed the finest in England, the description of it is to be found in books, but nothing can give you an adequate idea of it but seeing it. Happy Veteran, old Englands pride and glory, here
you

you repose after all your dangers, and daily see the triumph of your Victories in the commerce that floats up and down the Thames. The Infirmary is not ill constructed, and the Boys School near it is also worthy observation.

From hence we walked to Woolwich, where we took some refreshment, not to say Dinner, for that would have cost us too much time and money, but we eat and then viewed the Dock-Yard, the Hulks, the Warren and the Barracks. We then passed over three fields to Charlton-Wood, whose situation and tumbled ground were truly picturesque. Charlton Wood is beautiful indeed and so is the Village above it, thence we passed over Black-heath and beheld that monument of disgrace to Parliamentary jobbs, the ruin of the superb Mansion of Sir Gregory Page. We ended our walk in Greenwich Park, whose situation and variety of ground and prospect charmed us much, but how were we surprised to find a number of groups of figures, laying on the grass, walking, setting, standing in all possible picturesque manners, and attracted to one beautiful spot by the harmony of a Military band of Music who were placed in a triangular form on the rise of one Tree-hill, as it is so called. The effect was charming, and quite surprising being

so unexpected, it relieved our fatigue, for we began to tire a little, and after having indulged in a cup of tea, we took our seats in one of the Stages and returned home to a comfortable Supper, which we had the prudence to prepare before we set out.

In the park we observed a number of Conduits which I found were over springs of water to supply the hospital, and by this means the water rises to its upper apartments, which must be a vast convenience.

We could not help observing the white-thorn in this park, which exhibits some curious examples of intersecting and anatomising branches, so you see we carry our comparative anatomy with us where ever we go.

We were too late to see the little Princess, who receives company in public every day, and conducts herself with so much elegance and ease, that she is the universal admiration of people.

We engage to make frequent excursion of this sort during the Summer and indeed there is so much to be seen about London in the long evenings, that we have frequent walks.

Every

Every exit from the town, has it's peculiar places of diversion and refreshment, and they say it would take a days walk only to traverse the road which surrounds London. I lament that you are not of our party Henry, but since you say your health is quite established, I am content,

Adieu my good friend, believe me ever

and Affectionately Yours &c.

LETTER

L E T T E R XV.

PREVIOUS to my entering upon Midwifry, I read Dr. Smelliers Treatise, with Dr. Denmans Introduction and Dr. Leekes, there remains little to be added by the Lecturer, but the way to become a Gossip without getting tipsey, the brandy bottle having been the means of the old Women loosing this valuable branch of art.

The casts and preperations are good, and the Machine to deliver from it certainly very usefull but the whole lies in a narrow compass, and Nature is the great guide, for in difficult cases it is reduced to the operation of Lithotomy which is the most dexterous of the two.

Several of the Pupils have presented themselves at Surgeons hall to pass an examination
before

before they left London, but seven of them have been turned back, they may however make very good Mid-wives, which you know is the principal practice of the majority of Village Doctors.

I have made another pleasant excursion to Gravesend in one of the Boats, this is the cheapest mode of conveyance I ever met with, the day was fine, the wind favorable, and we had a pleasant sail indeed. We slept at Chatham and after viewing the Dock yard and place, went over to Sheerness, returned to Gravesend and made our way back to London by return Chaises and on foot.

Kent is a beautifull country and the Farmers are rich and industrious. I saw one farm where they assured me the Damsons in the Hedge rows had produced sixty pounds in one year. Margate and Dover furnish the road with abundance of Carriages and Travellers, so that the Inns are not bad tho' far from excellent. I should have liked to have got to Canterbury, which is one of the famous old Cities, and where the Cathedrall and the Streets are in the very ancient gothic, stile beside I wished to see the Tomb of Thomas A Becket our Founder.

At

At Darking we met with an elderly Surgeon who amused us; enquiring after the modern modes of education, he entered into the history of Physic during his remembrance. Empiricism he said was held in utter contempt by the College in his time, and now every Doctor aims at success by it. He remembers when Dr. James and Dr. Ward were laughed at by the Regulars, and now their medicines are held in high repute.

The Radcliff Professorships he said were instituted to bring home the Science of foreign Universities, and to purchase the celebrated receipts of successfull Empirics, with whom Germany especially abounded at that time. Now he observed we have a constant succession of Imposture, regularly adopted by some regular practitioners; we have Magnetic Doctors, Urine Doctors, Cancer Doctors, Opium Doctors, Terra Ponderosa Doctors, Great Pox Doctors, Cow Pox Doctors, and Horse Doctors; there was nothing too absurd to propose, and while Degrees in Physic were to be purchased for Fifteen Pounds, and sent up by the Stage Coach he observed it must be so, and while a simple Apothecary could by pimping for great folks, be created a Baronet, and thus elevated be bowed to by the Profession, it would be so.

He

He was extremely angry at what we related to him, that Farmers and Priests had been admitted Dressers at St. Thomas's who never had known the Profession before they entered there, and could not now read a prescription, he swore it was against an established rule of the Hospital and that it was the duty of the Governors to take notice of this unjust injurious infringement of the Profession.

As a Kentish Yeoman he said he had the honor of St. Thomas at heart, and whenever the School of Surgery relaxed from its original purity, the Science would be at an end; his only hope now rested on the establishment of a College of Surgeons, which he trusted would retrieve the honor of the Profession.

My paper reminds me my letter is long, adieu my dear Friend, believe me ever and truly

Yours Dear Henry, &c. &c.

LETTER

L E T T E R XVI.

I HAVE been very busy since I wrote last in dissecting in a private room at Guy's, where one of the Surgeons who piques himself on making his Dressers good Anatomists, instructs them during the Winter, at present he is absent from London, but there is a quiet way of getting a subject in Summer, known only to a few, and we have been diligently dissecting.

Four of us in these long days can finish an adult before it is offensive, and our chit chat while we work both instructs and amuses us. We have injected many parts, so that we are become handy with the syringe, and shall not be obliged to pay for our preparations in the winter, you can not think how Anatomy wins upon you, when you
can

can pursue it pleasantly and without that unwholesome stench which many subjects in an ill ventilated confined room produce. The making preperations invites much attention, and will speedily repay the extra expences we are at.

I have injected some parts with fine Varnish, and have prepared them dry to put in tarpintine when I am settled, by which means I save the trouble and expence of Bottles and Spirits and package at present; from a large Cat and a Dog I have made several elegant preperations, and I have one Testis injected with Quicksilver. I mean to continue the pursuit occasionally during the Summer, for it is much more agreeable and convenient than in the frezing short winter days.

After a week of confinement, one of our companions proposed a ramble to Richmond to sweeten us with the fresh air, and in order to impress us with the benefits of Royalty, determined to shew us the previledges we enjoy from a King in this free Country.

He is a whimsical fellow and first took us to Church last Sunday morning at Whitehall, which is esteemed the finest building for Architecture and proportions in London. it was built by Inigo

Jones, and the ceiling is painted by Sir Peter Paul Rubens; it was the Banqueting room of Whitehall Pallace, and is said to be the place from whence King Charles went out to be beheaded, the fine equestrian statue of Charles I. at Charing Cross, stands on the spot where the Regicides were burnt.

After Church he walked us through the Royal Parks, St. James's, the Green Park and Hyde Park to Kensington Gardens; there I saw the curious specimens of Trees renovated from their Trunks. Several old Trees near the Palace have been the subjects of Mr. Foresighs experiment, and very curious they are, analogous to the human System and its diseases; the amputated limbs he defends from wet and from air with a composition; the account of which is given I believe in the philosophical transactions, but Evelyn on forest trees has all this knowledge, and it is like many other modern discoveries, an old story revived. After amusing ourselves with the gay company in these beautifull Gardens, we luckily met with a Stage, which conveyed us withinside and without to Kew Bridge.

Here we made a meal, for which they made us pay, but having bought some experience with our

our dinner we resolved upon œconomy the rest of our tour.

We should have been disappointed of viewing Kew and Richmond Gardens, because they are not opened for public use 'till July, if we had not met at the house where we dined one of the persons belonging to the Hothouses, who was so good as to carry us in and to shew us the first Botanical Garden in the World; no expence has been spared, and as we trade to every part of the Globe, the productions of its four Quarters are to be found assembled here; I had only to lament that our time was so short; however this must be a future treat; from the Hot-houses we viewed Kew Gardens, which are adorned with many Temples and terminated by an Indian Pagoda, we had not time to go round those of Richmond, but what we viewed of them was delightful. It was our wish to have slept at Hampton Court, but no carriage occurring we walked over Richmond Hill; the prospect of which I cannot pretend to describe, it is so rich and so enchanting, that it is justly the admiration of all beholders, here we drank our Tea, and took our chance for a Nights lodging; we rambled through Richmond Park in the cool of the eve, and came to a beautifull Village called Rohampton where pleasant public house, gave, us the fragments

ments of many a meal served up in the day, with the addition of eggs and Vegetables, good Beer and good Cyder, and provided us with one Bed and a Truss of Straw for a second, on which I made a sound repose, after my pleasant exercise. The next morn a good breakfast encouraged us to renew our walk, again we traversed Richmond Park and Hill, its Bridge and Twickenham Meadows, and resolving on a day of pleasure, we crossed the Ferry, and walked the Towing path by the side of the silver Thames, as far as Putney Bridge. Here after making a repast our leader took us again into Royal paths and brought us by the King's private road through the Queens Palace in St. James's Park, passing through which we took water at Westminster Bridge, determining to make a chearfull Supper and conclude it with singing *God Save the King*.

Adieu my dear Henry, and believe me as usual

Your Affectionate &c.

LETTER

LETTER XVII.

I AM very much surprized my dear Henry that there is no scheeme to keep the young men in London during the Summer Season, they are all flown, Dressers and Pupils, and there are but three of us left to the care of this great Hospital, either sickness or idleness among us, would oblige the Surgeons to dress their own patients, or send to Scotland for a cargo of Mates, as they do when a Military expedition is going forwards. All Tuition as I told you before is confined to lecturing, and when the Teachers shut up their Shops, you would suppose Accidents and Diseases were postponed 'till the Winter.

We have had several fractures and dislocation and I assure you I am very adroit in managing them, I did think of staying another winter, but
then

then I despaired of the opportunity of improving myself, as I have done by dressing this Summer. An offer has been made to me of going to the East Indies, where I am promised the Surgery of a Regiment and other advantages. A Gentleman who has a Son there, promises me all his protection, and as his Son is likely to be removed to one of the settlements up the country, he says he shall take me with him and make it worth my while. This is a tempting offer and I see no objection to my accepting it, I am young and may come back in a few years to enjoy *Otium cum Dignitate*.. I think I know the profession well enough to make a safe Practitioner if not a Teacher; I can do a great deal of good, and I will be cautious not to do any harm.

Dear Henry, sound our good Master upon this subject, say that I will take no step in life without his approbation, but that if he thinks I should listen to it, I will come down as soon as I can be spared to lay the particulars before him, and take his advice.

This is the day the Governors hold a Court and afterwards dine upon the King's Venison; at other Hospitals the Feast is celebrated in their Halls, but our Gentlemen meet at the London
Tavern.

Tavern. I suppose they all attend upon the Venison, tho' so few concern themselves about the business of the Charity.

In the City there is plenty of Feasting all the Summer long, such quantities of Turtle and Venison, Swan-hopping, Bean-feasts and Military meetings; it is not to be wondered at, that an Alderman drops out of his chair after dinner now and then. But adieu, a compound fracture is just arrived, I must haste to relieve it, and am therefore without more words

Yours most Affectionately &c. &c.

 LETTER XIX.

I REJOICE my dear Henry that my proposal meets with your and my good Masters approbation.

I shall accept his invitation and pay my respects to him next week, then return to London and prepare for my Voyage; with a view to India, I went the other day to see a Ship-launch, which is a magnificent sight indeed, such a body constructed by the art of Man, dipping so grandly and so smoothly into its element is a glorious object, and when we consider that it is capable of containing so many guns, and so many Men, for so many mouths, with all their provision and necessaries, and that after all a Lad of Sixteen may guide it from the Western World to the
 Eastern;

Eastern; shurely it must be considered, as the perfection of human art.

I shall not be able to present myself at Surgeons-hall 'till my return to London, I have no sort of trepidation about my examination, we have accustomed ourselves to question and answer in our Walks, and I understand the examiners are Gentlemen of liberal minds, who never intend to puzzle or perplex the timid mind, but allow to real talents every chance of fair success, which at the same time, they abash the bullying block-head, and send him back to learn his lesson more perfect.

I rejoice to think how soon I shall shake your hand and in the interim remain

Dear Henry,

Yours &c. &c.



1897

Received of the Treasurer of the
Board of Education

the sum of \$100.00
for the purchase of
books for the
School of the
City of New York
for the year 1897
and for the purchase of
books for the
School of the
City of New York
for the year 1897
and for the purchase of
books for the
School of the
City of New York
for the year 1897

Witness my hand and seal
this 1st day of June 1897

John D. White

Superintendent

[Faint signature]

John D. White

WZ 260 H833 1800

